United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.6/Add.28

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 June 2000

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session
5-30 June 2000 (Part I)

Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 25
Internal oversight

1. At its 21st meeting, on 21 June 2000, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on programme 25 (Internal oversight) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6 (Prog. 25)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. Satisfaction was expressed at the clear and concise drafting of the medium-term plan for the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

4. It was observed that some subprogrammes needed improvement to appropriately reflect the role and functions of the Office. It was recalled that in its resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244, the General Assembly had clearly stated the purpose and functions of the Office. Some formulations in the programme did not seem to be in conformity with the mandate of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

5. Concern was expressed that the indicators of achievement in all four subprogrammes did not reflect the expected accomplishments of programme 25 (Internal oversight) but rather the expected accomplishments of other programmes.

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The indicators of achievement should not be limited to quantitative measurement but should also include the quality of evaluation recommendations and focus on the effects on efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes and activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 of programme 25 (Internal oversight), subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 25.1:

(i) In line 13, after the words "United Nations", add the words "relevant Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation";

(ii) Delete the reference to General Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236;

(iii) At the end of the final sentence, replace the words "the scope of whose oversight responsibilities covers the resources and staff of the United Nations" with the words "which assists the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization";

(b) Paragraph 25.2:

(i) In the first sentence, replace the words "the need for the Organization to ensure greater compliance with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies" with the words "the need to help Member States and the Organization ensure that programme activities comply with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies";

(ii) In the first sentence, after the words "better results achieved", add the words "determining all factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes";

(c) Paragraph 25.5:

(i) Delete the words "relevance" and "impact";

(ii) After the word "Organization", delete the words "by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives";

(d) Paragraph 25.6:

(i) In the second sentence, after the words "The Unit will conduct evaluations that", add the words "facilitate the intergovernmental bodies to";

(ii) In the third sentence, after the word "effectiveness" add the word "implementation";

(e) Paragraph 25.7:

After the word "improvements" add the words "in helping intergovernmental organs in determining";

(f) Paragraph 25.8:

After the word "recommendations", add the words "by pertinent intergovernmental bodies";

(g) Paragraph 25.10:

Towards the end of the second sentence, replace the word "stewardship" with the word "management";

(h) Paragraph 25.12:

(i) At the end of the paragraph, add the following:

"(d) better coordination with external oversight bodies; (e) the quality of evaluation recommendations which contribute to making a better analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of programmes by intergovernmental bodies; and (f) the quality and extent of self-evaluations conducted by programme managers";

(ii) Replace the words "(b) savings resulting from implementation of efficient systems and procedures" with the words "(b) a more effective use of the financial resources [in order to guarantee the]/[leading to better] implementation of programmes and mandates and more effective procedures";

(i) Paragraph 25.13:

Replace the paragraph as follows:

"The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the implementation of the programmes by monitoring programme delivery and to determine whether they are adequate, timely and in accordance with the mandates, that they address effectively the objectives of the programmes and that resources are used efficiently";

(j) Paragraph 25.14:

In the second sentence, after the words "progress made towards achieving", add the words "the objectives and";

(k) Paragraph 25.14:

In the second sentence, replace the word "commitments" with the word "objectives";

(l) Paragraph 25.15:

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"Expected accomplishments would include more effective monitoring by programme managers of implementation of activities and reporting thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination; and more timely programme delivery";

(m) Paragraph 25.16:

At the end of the paragraph, add the following: "and submission of reports in a timely manner in accordance with Rule 6.3 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation";

(n) Paragraph 25.18:

Replace the final sentence with the following: "In addition and in case of need and when appropriate, the Section will provide investigative services to the funds and programmes of the United Nations";

(o) Paragraph 25.20:

After the words "Indicators of achievement would include", insert the words "a better quality of investigation functions in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244".